



# Environmental Fact Sheet

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## Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs As a Transportation Control Measure

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with governmental and non-governmental groups that share the objective of promoting bicycling and pedestrian programs as environmentally sound, viable transportation options.*

### Significance

“When I see an adult on a bicycle I do not despair for the future of the Human Race.”

- H.G. Wells

Bicycling and walking are underutilized modes of transportation that offer the potential for significant reductions in transportation emissions while also reducing traffic congestion and demand on petroleum. Additional benefits of using these options include making neighborhoods safer and more friendly as well as reducing other environmental impacts of motorized transportation, such as solid and hazardous waste production, water pollution, greenhouse gases, noise, and the destruction of open space, wetlands, and other habitats.

Since the Federal Highway Administration estimates that 60 percent of all automobile trips are under five miles in length (Transportation Air Quality Selected Facts and Figures; USDOT FHWA, 1996), it appears that the public misses a great many opportunities in which bicycling and walking could be substituted for driving. Several governmental and

public interest groups are now participating in an initiative to encourage the public to choose bicycling and walking more often.

## **Initiative Design**

EPA is working as part of the Interagency Task Force on Bicycling and Walking to support the goals of the National Bicycling and Walking Study. The study's goals are to double the current percentages of total trips made by bicycling and walking while reducing by ten percent the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed or injured in traffic crashes. The task force includes representatives from government agencies and advocacy groups.

## **Partners**

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Mobile Sources
- U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration
- Bicycle Federation of America
- League of American Bicyclists

## **Implementation Plan**

- Provide technical guidance in the interpretation of national transportation legislation
- Include consideration for integration of bicycling and pedestrian needs in EPA programs and policies

- Provide outreach to the general public and other government agencies concerning safely increasing bicycling and walking usage levels
- Serve as a positive national presence and role model

## **For Further Information**

For more information on this program, please contact Pat Childers at:

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